What is claimed is:

- 1. A method for high throughput screening of prokaryotic genomic DNA samples to identify one or more enzymes encoded by the prokaryotic DNA of said sample, comprising the steps of:
- a) generating a normalized, multispecific, prokaryotic expression library;
- b) inserting bioactive substrates into samples of the library;
- c) screening the samples with a fluorescent analyzer that detects bioactive fluorescence;
- d) separating samples detected as positive for bioactive fluorescence; and
- e) determining the DNA sequence of positive samples; wherein the DNA sequence identifies and encodes an enzyme that catalyzes the bioactive substrate detected in step d).
- 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the enzyme is selected from the group consisting of lipases, esterases, proteases, glycosidases, glycosyl transferases, phosphatases, kinases, mono- and dioxygenases, haloperoxidases, lignin peroxidases, diarylpropane peroxidases, epozide hydrolases, nitrile hydratases, nitrilases, transaminases, amidases, and acylases.
- 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the prokaryotic expression library contains at least of about 2 \times 10 6 clones.

- 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the sample is a prokaryotic cell.
- 5. The method of claim 4, wherein the prokary tic cell is gram negative.
- 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the sample is encapsulated in a gel microdrop.
- 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the high-throughput screening step c) screens up to about 35 million samples per hour.
- 8. The method of claim 1, wherein the prokaryotic expression library contains extremophiles.
- 9. The method of claim 3, wherein the extremophiles are thermophiles.
- 10. The method of claim 3, wherein the extremeophiles are selected from the group consisting of hyperthermophiles, psychrophiles, halophiles, psychrotrophs, alkalophiles, and acidophiles.
- 11. The method of claim 1, wherein the bioactive substrate comprises C12FDG.



- 12. The method of claim 10, wherein the bioactive substrate further comprises a lipophilic tail.
- 13. The method of claim 1, wherein the the samples are heated before step b).
- 14. The method of claim 13, wherein the heating is in the range of about 70°C.
- 15. The method of claim 14, wherein the heating occurs in the range of about 30 minutes.
- 16. The method of claim 1, wherein the fluorescent analyzer comprises a FACS apparatus.
- 17. The method of claim 1, wherein the prokaryotic expression library is biopanned before step b).
- 18. The method of claim 1, including the additional steps of : subjecting an enzyme encoded by the DNA identified in step d) to directed evolution comprising the steps of:
- a) subjecting the enzyme to non-directed mutagenesis; and b) screening mutant enzymes produced in step a) for a mutant enzyme that is stable at a temperature of at least in the range of about 60°C and that has functioning enzymatic activity at a temperature at least 10°C below its optimal temperature range and that catalyzes a greater amount of a catalytic substrate per a defined unit of time than the enzyme of step a).

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